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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jim C. Spain et al
Serial No.: 10/076,383

Group Art Unit:
Examiner:

Filed: February 19, 2002

For: BIOLOGICAL PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ORTHO-AMINOPHENOLS
FROM NITROAROMATIC COMPOUNDS

PETITION TO AWARD EARLIER FILING DATE

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

Applicants' attorney respectfully requests the award of a filing date in the subject application of, or earlier than, 15 February 2002.

The subject application was prepared for mailing to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office 23 January 2002, as evidenced, in part, by applicants' attorney's signatures on forms PTO/SB/05 and PTO/SB/17, both dated 23 January 2002.

Once prepared for mailing, the application package was given to Ms Lynnita Robertson, whose Declaration accompanies this petition, for mailing via the U. S. Postal Service. In the said Declaration, Ms Robertson declares that the application package was mailed to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office 23 January 2002, by first-class mail.

The subject application was due in the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office 15 February 2002 and was mailed from this office 23 January 2002, thus allowing 23 days for delivery. It was believed that 23 days was sufficient for delivery and that neither Express Mail nor a Certificate of Mailing was required.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles E. Bricker, Reg. No. 26,715
Attorney for Applicants

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